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# THTR 194.01: Seminar - First Year

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# First Year Seminar

THTR 194 – Section 01 – 3 Credits – TBA

Fridays – 11 AM-11:50 PM

Instructor – John Kenneth DeBoer  
Office – PARTV 110

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Office Hours – TWR 1-2,

## Course Description

This first-year seminar provides students with fundamental academic skills and an overview of student support services. The course covers basic transition competencies such as writing, critical thinking, and study skills; an overview of General Education; theatre and musical theatre program planning; registration for the coming semester; learning resources such as the library and IT; resources such as Academic Advising, Academic Enrichment, the Writing Center, the Counseling Center, and Financial Education.

## Learning Objectives

- Develop written and oral communication skills.
- Apply critical thinking and problem solving to course materials and personal decision making.
- Expand the habits of mind for studying (e.g., reading, writing, note- and test-taking).
- Examine and discuss sustainable lifestyles (e.g. literacies in health/stress, relationships/sex, alcohol/drugs, and responsible fiscal management).
- Understand one's rights and responsibilities as a student member of the community at UM and the School of Theatre & Dance (Conduct Code, Handbook.).
- Develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values.
- Value and acquire practical sensitivities to different cultures and respect diversity within the global context.
- Find and utilize resources, services, and activities/events (e.g., SARC, Curry Health Center, Academic Advising, General Education, and ASUM services).

## Required Materials

- Smith, Anna Deavere. *Letters to a young artist*. New York: Anchor Books, 2006.
- Other readings available on Moodle (see the schedule below)
- Tickets to *Summer and Smoke*, *Dance Up Close*, and *White Christmas*. Theatre majors are entitled to one ticket via their "majors card." All declared Majors will receive a "majors card" from Erin McDaniel in the first weeks of the semester. General Education students must purchase tickets at the UMArts Box Office in the PARTV Building. Plan ahead and purchase your tickets before the night of the show.

## Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are critical aspects of this course, and students are expected to attend each class. Excused absences are up to the discretion of the instructor.

## UM Connect/Student Email

All University of Montana students are provided with an official university email account, referred to as UConnect. This is the University's primary method of communication with students, thus, it will be extremely important to check this account frequently. Students are welcomed and encouraged to forward this e-mail account to their personal e-mail account.

## Discussion Forum

Moodle discussion forums provide a basis for the class to interact, discuss, review, and reflect what is taught in the course each week. All students are required to participate in the discussion forum.

## Journal

There will be four journal assignments completed during the course of the semester. These will entail both analysis and reflection, and will allow the instructor to evaluate students' writing.

## Goal Assignment

At the beginning and end of the semester, students will outline their curricular and co-curricular goals.

## Semester Calendar

Students will develop a calendar of courses and planned activities for the semester.

## Passion Project

Each student will be required to complete a final project aligned to their area of interest and not required for another class. You may choose from the following:

- Participate in auditions for the spring Theatre season
- Perform in a Dance Concert
- Participate in Fall Portfolio Reviews for Design/Technology
- Other service, educational, or performance activities in Theatre or Dance (must be approved in advance)

All students must submit their proposed passion project by the fourth week of school.

## School of Theatre & Dance Handbook Quiz

You will take a quiz on important information in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook.

### Late Assignments

Assignments that are not turned in by the deadlines posted in this syllabus will not be accepted.

## Academic Honesty and Integrity

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the university. All students must be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

## Disability Accommodations

This course is accessible to and usable by otherwise qualified students with disabilities. To request reasonable program modifications, please consult with the instructor. Disability Services for Students will assist the

instructor and student in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the [Disability Services website](#).

## Respect Policy

This course is designed to incorporate discussion, the sharing of ideas, opinions, and experiences, and to educate you on the skills necessary to succeed in college. It is expected that all students will maintain a high level of respect for others, including students and guest speakers. The use of cell phones, computers and iPods in this class is unacceptable; we ask that you turn off all of your electronics when you walk into the classroom. The use of any electronics will result in a deduction of daily participation points.

## Grading and Assignments

Attendance	10 %
Participation	20 %
Discussion Forum	10 %
Journals	20 %
Assignments	20 %
Final Paper	20 %

## Total Grade Calculations

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 and below	F

## Course Schedule

	Topic	Activity	Assignment due
August 31	Welcome What is art?	-Community building	
September 5	Tuesday - Majors Meeting in the Montana Theater at 5:30 PM		
September 6	Wednesday - Auditions for F17 dance productions in Open Space at 6:30 PM		
September 8	IT services Time Management	-Overview of IT Services -Developing a Calendar	Complete: <a href="#">Moodle 101 tutorial</a> Bring to class: Fall 2017 course syllabi and hard copy planners Read: Letters to a Young Artist, pages 1-24
September 15	Writing Center (class visit) Math Tutoring Interpreting writing tasks/assignments and asking clarifying questions	-Overview of writing enhancement & tutoring; math tutoring -"Fact or Opinion" Exercise	Read: "Reading Myths and Effective Reading Strategies" Read: Letters to a Young Artist, pages 25-54 Bring to class: 3 questions on writing in college
	Young Designer and Technician Forum (U/RTA-style portfolio tables) in PARTV Lobby at 9 AM		
September 22	Counseling Center, Curry Health Center (class visit) <a href="#">Alcohol.edu</a>	-Discussion about stress management skills -Alcohol scenarios	Complete: <a href="#">Alcohol.edu module</a> Bring to class: 3 questions regarding alcohol and/or health resources on campus
September 29	Student Advocacy Resource Center (class visit) <a href="#">PETA</a>	-Discussion about resiliency -Title IX handout -Discussion about Bystander Intervention and PETA	Complete: <a href="#">PETA module</a> Bring to class: 3 questions regarding personal safety and/or sex
October 6	Theatre & Dance Productions Program Responses Season Selection		Complete: Journal Assignment 1 Read: Letters to a Young Artist, pages 57-84
October 11	Wednesday - As You Like It in Masquer Theatre opening night at 7:30 PM		
October 13	Registration Overview	-Registering for classes -Develop next semester schedule using DegreeWorks	
October 16	Monday - Design & Technology Talkback for As You Like It in Masquer Theatre at 5:10 PM		
October 20	Financial Education (class visit)	-Financial literacy presentation	Complete: Journal Assignment 2 Read: Letters to a Young Artist, pages 87-108
October 23	Monday - Performance & Practice Response for As You Like It in Masquer Theatre at 5:10 PM		
October 27	Diversity	-Discussion about micro-aggressions -Stereotypes activity	Complete: Journal Assignment 3 Listen: stereotypes podcast " <a href="#">Playing with Perceptions</a> "
November 3	Library Resources General Education	-Library Flow Workshop	Read: Letters to a Young Artist, pages 111-130
November 10	NO CLASS! HAPPY VETERANS DAY! Dance Up Close in Masquer Theatre opening night at 7:30 PM		
November 17	Professional Skills Auditions and Portfolio Reviews		Complete: Passion Project Proposal Read: Letters to a Young Artist, pages 133-152

November 23	Tuesday - Peter and the Starcatcher in Montana Theatre opening night at 7:30 PM		
November 24	NO CLASS! HAPPY THANKSGIVING!		
November 27	Monday - Design & Technology Talkback for Peter and the Starcatcher in Montana Theatre at 5:10 PM		
December 1	Professional Skills Auditions and Portfolio Reviews (Cont.)		Complete: Journal Assignment 4 Read: Letters to a Young Artist, pages 155-173
December 4	Monday - Performance & Practice Response for Peter and the Starcatcher in Masquer Theatre at 5:10 PM		
December 5	Tuesday - Auditions for Spring Term theatre productions in Masquer Theatre **tentative**		
December 7	Thursday – Fall Portfolio Reviews **tentative, time and location TBD**		
December 8	Reflection and Goal Setting	-Goal setting activity	Complete: Journal Assignment 5 Read: Letters to a Young Artist, pages 177-End